feeding actively in shallow water. The four spoonbills followed the egret closely, and darted forward repeatedly to peck at items behind and around its feet. This deliberate behaviour, which continued for more than ten minutes, resembled that described by Lewis (1989) between a Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* and an Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. Presumably the spoonbills were profiting from invertebrates or small fish disturbed by the egret's movements.

Brown *et al.* (1982) describe African Spoonbills as feeding alone or in small groups of up to six or even ten birds, usually sweeping their bills from side to side for invertebrates, but sometimes darting about rapidly like a Little Egret *E. garzetta* catching fish. The spoonbills' behaviour at Katavi was akin to the latter activity, but their association with another species was not recorded by Brown *et al.* Nor do Cramp & Simmons (1977) mention such commensal behaviour in the Eurasian Spoonbill *P. leucorodia*.

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Interactions between Giant and Pied Kingfishers *Megaceryle maxima* and *Ceryle rudis*

Kleptoparasitism or piracy, where one species steals food from another, is widespread among birds, notably raptors, skuas and gulls. Whilst some species obtain much of their food by piracy, others are opportunists, having many different feeding strategies. Among kingfishers, piracy appears to be rare, so the following observation may be worth recording.

During a weekend in February 1990 I noted frequent attacks by Pied Kingfishers *Ceryle rudis* on a Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* at Lake Naivasha, Kenya. Both species were feeding in shallow water where the rising lake water had flooded grassland with scattered *Sesbania* trees. The Giant Kingfisher spent most of the time perching in one of these trees, flying down to catch prey from the water. Whenever it flew back up from the water with food, usually two Pied Kingfishers appeared and relentlessly pursued it through the trees and over a nearby papyrus *Cyperus* papyrus swamp. Whilst it was not always possible to witness the outcome of these pursuits, on several occasions the Giant Kingfisher was forced to abandon its prey.

It is possible that the Pied Kingfishers were being aggressive towards the larger species, rather than practising piracy. Other kingfishers have been observed chasing predators or other birds. For example, P. W. Greig-Smith (*in* Cramp 1985) noted Grey-headed Kingfishers *Halcyon leucocephala* driving off various species of bird by chasing and swooping attacks. The Eurasian Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* may harass and drive off passerines, especially if these are 'trespassing' on favourite perches (Boag 1982), whilst Pied Kingfishers have been recorded mobbing Eurasian Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* (H-U. Reyer, *in* Cramp 1985) and rushing out at other predators (Douthwaite 1978). However, the attacks by Pied Kingfishers on the Giant Kingfisher at Lake Naivasha were only observed when the larger species actually caught prey. At other times it was ignored by the Pied Kingfishers. The interactions are therefore believed to be an example of kleptoparasitism in kingfishers. It is of interest that Pearce (1983) recorded the reverse situation—an African Giant Kingfisher kleptoparasitizing a Pied Kingfisher. In that instance, on three occasions when the latter species flew back to its perch with a fish, a Giant Kingfisher flew across from a nearby fence post along a stream and snatched the fish from it. Perhaps at Naivasha the Pied Kingfishers, by acting together, were able to steal food from the Giant Kingfisher.

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On the racial status of the White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* in coastal Tanzania

Fry *et al.* (1988) follow Britton (1980) in including the Pugu Hills (6°46S, 39°13E) within the range of the northern race of the White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis kilimensis*, thus extending the range some 205 km south from the East Usambara mountains. The record forming the basis of these statements is from Harvey & Howell (1987) who stated "vagrant, recorded only January 1973 in forests (WGH & R. Stjernstedt)." but Harvey & Howell gave no indication of the race referred to.

Ten years of research in the Pugu Hills since 1981 have not added a single record of the species (pers. obs.). Recent studies in four other coastal forests between Pugu and